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**American Women in France**

If the good sense of the people cannot be trusted to restrain the exodus of American women to France, the Administration should take a firmer stand than it has hitherto taken in the matter. No woman has a right to go to a war-stricken country, where food is scarce and fuel incredibly dear, unless she can be of real and practical service, unless she can give the full equivalent of her keep. A three months' course of nursing does not fit her to be a hospital nurse. A casual knowledge of settlement work does not insure for her a field of usefulness. An ability to run a motor over the oiled and even roads around Boston and New York does not mean that she can run a motor over the ploughed-up, muddy and crater-strewn roads of France. Even a familiarity with the French language is not, as some people seem to think, a guarantee of serviceableness. France is full of people who speak French; it has long been the habit of the country.

The granting of passports to everyone attached to a "unit" has enabled hundreds of adventurous girls and women to cross the seas. They go to do reconstruction work and canteen work and hospital work. They go to pack and unpack and distribute. They go without knowing what they will do, and without the training that would enable them to do anything. A modest secretaryship attached to the Red Cross in Paris had ninety applicants—ninety American women striving with one another in a foreign city for the chance to write letters and make out lists. A call for a few volunteers in New York brought seven hundred answers in a day. The illustrated supplements of our big newspapers give us Sunday after Sunday photographs of picturesquely attired young girls who will shortly go abroad with the Volunteer Ambulance Division, or who will "grace the new war uniform designed for women in service on the French front." Naturally every other girl who sees these exhilarating pictures is keen to join the ranks. The government has definitely refused to allow officers' wives the privilege of following their husbands. Some have gone; more are going. A little influence is brought to bear, a "wire" is pulled, the young wife is attached to a "unit," sails with the "unit," and adds one more weight to the burden that France is bearing. She is breaking the law with the connivance of her husband; she is making a nuisance of herself; but she has her willful way.

**Honolulu Market Prices**

A big banana drive took place in Honolulu last week, and hundreds of thousands of bunches were sold. The bakers are making bread composed of one third wheat flour and two thirds banana pulp. Most persons pronounce the new bread delicious.

The Territorial Market Division sends out word that poultry of all kinds is scarce, especially Muscovy and Peking ducks. These are selling at from 30 to 32 cents per pound. Hawaiian ducks have advanced from \$6.75 to \$7.75 per dozen during the past week. Island eggs have dropped a few cents, but are selling from 60 to 70 cents per dozen.

Bananas are selling in Honolulu for \$1.00 a bunch. These sell on the mainland for from three to four and a half dollars a bunch. The shipping facilities have been so poor recently that tons of bananas have rotted on the various islands.

Island butter is selling in Honolulu for from 60 to 65 cents per pound. Hens sell for from 35 to 38 cents per pound, and turkeys are bringing from 40 to 50 cents per pound. Irish potatoes have been selling for from \$2.50 per hundred weight to \$4.75 per hundred. Sweet potatoes, from 75 cents to \$1.00 per hundred weight.

Sweet corn is selling for from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per hundred ears. Strawberries, 25 cents per basket. A few have sold as low as 20 cents.

These are all Honolulu prices. Kauai prices as a rule are higher.

Now that the second liberty loan is an accomplished fact, we can look back and estimate its significance, both spiritual and material, to the United States. Boerslaner, the analyst of finance, writing in the January number of Hearst's magazine, tells us that it is the largest subscription in the annals of finance, whether made by a government or a private firm.

From the moral and the financial momentum accumulated, as well as from the almost inexhaustible resources of the country, he finds it only natural that the second appeal should have brought a larger response than the first. And he predicts that the same forces will be at work to make the response accumulative in whatever succeeding loans the government shall ask. This authority brings out with force and clearness the contrast between our own loans and those of Germany, which are paid, not in cash, but in promissory notes. The effects of the latter system, on prices of commodities, and the value of currency are such as to make us modify to a very large extent, the apparent value of the German loans. The financial implications of the American response are most encouraging, though they might easily have been lost sight of by the people in general, if it were not for such expert explanation as that given by Boerslaner's article.

**Newton's Noble Poem**

Most people in Honolulu who know Byron R. Newton through his visit here a couple of years ago as assistant secretary of the treasury when he was looking over the site for a federal building and tracing up odds and ends under his control, do not know that he is a poet as well as a public official.

Yet Newton writes poetry, quite a bit of it, and good poetry too, as the following lines entitled "Why?" will bear witness. He became anonymously famous, if there is such a thing, when a few years ago he wrote what he called an "Ode to New York."

His latest poem follows:

WHY?

(By Byron R. Newton.)  
The night winds steal o'er the fields of France  
Where a million dead men lie,  
And a million ghastly faces there  
Are mutely asking, Why?  
Why are heavens red with hate  
From the cannon's angry flare?  
Why must the eyes of the pitying Christ  
See myriads dying there?  
Why from the Alps must snow fed streams  
With brave men's blood run red?  
Why are the bodies of innocent babes  
Strewing the ocean's bed?  
Why are starvation and sorrow and pain  
And terror in every clime?  
Why are the souls of men cast down  
With death at this Christmas time?  
What's happened, O God, to your beautiful world,  
Aflame with the furies of death?  
What demon has banished sweet peace from the earth  
And loosened hell's withering breath?  
Answer, O Teuton!—the secret is thine—  
Give up thy creed of hell,  
For on the final judgement day  
God will make you tell.  
Out with your kultur and lust and blood  
And rape and demon skill!  
Tell us, O Hun, of the subtle joy  
To crucify and kill.  
Tell us, vile monster in human form,  
By whom your soul was planned,  
And where that soul may be at peace  
By God and mortal damned!

**Hawaii's Booze Shops**

In the County of Hawaii at the present time are thirty-seven liquor houses, retail and wholesale. Seven are in Hilo proper and thirty at different points throughout the island.

Hilo has two hotels and five saloons. In the country there are two hotels and nineteen saloons. In addition, there are nine wholesale houses in the city and country.

Nine wholesale houses pay \$1,000 per annum for their licenses. Five Hilo saloons pay \$750 each. Two Hilo hotels pay \$1,000 per annum and two hotels in the country districts pay \$750 each. The nineteen country saloons each pay \$250.

Two saloons have given up their licenses recently and that reduced the country list from twenty-one to nineteen. This island is well provided with houses of refreshment, to say nothing of the innumerable blind pigs.—Hilo Tribune.

**Let's Raise Vegetables**

In this land where the soil is rich and the rainfall never fails, every man should have a vegetable garden. The Japanese always have one. And one seldom finds a pake without a garden. The haole is usually so closely tied to his calling that he seldom takes time to plant a garden. The remarkable thing is that when men from necessity or per force are compelled to live in some dry, arid district on the mainland, they long for an opportunity to plant a garden and raise vegetables. There are places in the desert sections of California, Arizona, Utah and Colorado where green spots attract immediate attention because they are so scarce. And to one who is compelled to look at dry sage brush and yellow sand day after day, a green spot is an oasis of great attractiveness.

However, aside from the pleasure of growing vegetables, the profit and convenience of doing so are sufficiently great to command attention. The vegetable gardens in Lihue are always green, thrifty and inviting. They require far less care than do gardens in less favored lands, where with almost constant care and cultivation it is difficult to insure even moderate returns. Vegetables fresh from the garden always taste better, too.

It is just barely possible that if the war lasts another year, we will all wish we had planted all the vegetables in the catalogue. Let's have a vegetable garden. What do you say? We are living on the Garden Isle. Let us live up to our opportunities.

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